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A

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

Mercurial Lepra,

BY

DOCTOR MORIARTY.

Dublin:

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P R E F A C E.

With the innumerable infirmities that afflict our perishable frame, we have in addition to lament, that the very means used to soften and ameliorate our tottering system will not only fail frequently of the intended good, but of themselves sometimes create new sources of decay.

That so valuable a medicine as mercury should be attended with this inconvenience is much to be lamented, but 'tis a matter of great consolation that this effect is comparatively rare with the extent and advantages of its use—and that a timely precaution by knowing the existence and nature of the present disease will prevent, in by far the greater number of cases, its baneful consequences.

I have had an opportunity of seeing many instances of this complaint, about twenty in the Locke and Stephen's Hospital of Dublin, and Infirmary of Edinburgh; and the following description has been made of my own observations on these, and of communications from some medical friends :—

The want of a precedent to follow (no publication being ever made on the subject) has rendered it a matter of considerable difficulty to compile a satisfactory history; however, 'tis hoped, that the accuracy of the facts will atone for its other imperfections.

Mercurial Lepra.

MANY practitioners, with whom I conversed on this subject, have considered it an hospital disease, and peculiar to the Locke of Dublin; but the reception of some patients, not only into that but into Stephen's hospital, while actually labouring under the disease, and who by their own confession, had been seized in their private dwellings during the use of mercury, sufficiently disapproves both notions; besides 'tis not uncommon in the infirmary of Edinburgh—two fatal cases of this, as well as I can collect, occurred to Dr. Gregory, while clinical professor. I have seen there myself a well marked case.

It

It has also been considered a species of Iues, both being observed most generally combined; this however is not owing to any connection between them, but because mercury, which I look on as the chief cause, is in that complaint most extensively employed.

In the commencement 'tis a disease of the cuticle, during its progress, however, when superficial ulcerations take place, the cutis also becomes affected—it passes most generally through three principal distinct stages, which I take the liberty of denominating the eruptive, desquamative, and incrustated.

The first of these is distinguished by an eruption, sometimes of a deep red, and at other times of a bright red colour, variable in form and magnitude; the pimples are in general of the same size as in measles, either distinct elevated and rough

rough to the touch; containing at times a pale or white serum, or they are broader and more confluent, and at times there only appears a suffusion, which in one case was of a purple colour—though a few patients reported to me that the suffusion was the first appearance, yet I suspect that a papular eruption preceded, for I have often observed the altitudes of the pimples gradually to decline, and the bases to enlarge until it had the appearance of a compleat suffusion or erysepelatous redness; at first it appears on the inside of the thighs near the place rubbed with the mercurial ointment, then gradually on the face, back of the hands and wrist, pit of the stomach, and frequently at once over the whole body—the hairy scalp even is not always exempt from it. The disease is observed to

to be most severe where the sebaceous glands are most numerous.

This stage generally lasts from ten to fourteen days, occasionally however there is some variation in its duration, and is attended with severe symptoms of pyrexia, as quickness of pulse, heat of skin, headache; thirst, delirium, alternate cold and hot fits, and almost constantly with severe paroxysms of itchiness; with a prickling pain of the soles of the feet, and a sort of sensation which the patients have compared with that excited by the application of nettles; the most elevated papillæ are the most itchy. This eruption in one or two instances receded and reappeared with shivering:

SECOND STAGE.—

Is distinguished by numberless thin, fleaky scales, of a dirty white colour, with

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the other symptoms, such as fever, itchiness, tumors, &c. continuing; when the disease runs through its whole course, this stage is found to last for a fortnight and upwards, during the whole of which a new cuticle is so quickly generated, and the cuticular laminæ thrown off in such immense quantities, that the bed and bed-cloths become literally strewed over, and hence a source of much irritation and uneasiness to the patient. Towards the close of this stage, the fever gradually assumes more and more the typhous nature, deep fissures or cracks are sometimes formed in the cuticle, which in these cases becomes parched and elastic to the feel, and as if elevated from the subjacent parts; about this period an exudation begins to take place and many incrustations are formed principally in the most corrugated parts—as the scrotum,

tum, angles of the eyes and lips, of the elbows, &c. in cases, however, when the papillæ were filled with serum, incrustations were formed, (which happen principally in the extremities, especially the lower) in these places before any desquamation appeared, and afterwards a desquamation appeared on the trunk—the exudations favour considerably the formation of these crusts; at this time the surface becoming raw and exposed to great irritation from the bed-cloths and cuticular flakes, produces restlessness, anxiety and wakefulness, and a source of additional torment; the skin adheres to the bed-cloths, a very peculiar and disagreeable fætor arises, which cannot fail of making an impression on the bystanders; but, with which I know nothing to compare—now every thing wears the most aggravated form; and

now

now the last stage, which has been denominated the incrusted, begins to be formed.

In this the surface of the body being left raw and exposed by the continual desquamation exudes a thin, sharp, fœtid fluid, which is soon succeeded by ill conditioned and apparently putrid incrustations, almost sheeting over the whole body, and of a dirty white colour, as if rubbed with sulphur, which may possibly be owing to the admixture of some uncleanness on the skin.

But the most miserable part of the patient's sufferings still awaits him on the falling off of these :—a raw and unprotected skin is now exposed to fresh irritation; the poor tortured sufferer is relieved by no posture, the bed-cloths hardened with this fœtid ichorous discharge, conspire with the heaps of cuticular flakes to allow

no respite to his misery. In the course of the disease, costiveness is no uncommon symptom, which on the least mismanagement is disposed to terminate in diarrhoea, and this accompanied either with delirium, or great emaciation, or gangrene, or anasarca, soon closes the scene.—Frequently the callous cuticle of the feet or hands comes off entire like a shoe or glove, and of considerable thickness, and any venereal ulcers that happen to exist become gangrenous, and the skin livid and swollen. I have never seen any ulcerations or incrustations on the back though it frequently desquamates, a singular circumstance indeed, and a fortunate one to the patient, to whom every other position proves frequently a torment.

The duration of this stage is very variable, sometimes it lasts for a month, so that 'tis not uncommon for the disease under

under the different stages to last for two months, or even longer.

Here I must observe, that the stages are not always distinct; but much interwoven with one another, and that the above is a description of the most severe forms, under which the disease appears.

The circumstances mentioned under the head of Prognosis will serve to point the milder ones.

'Tis both curious and singular, that in this high febrile state with immense thirst and heat of skin, occasional nausea and delirium, the appetite in a few cases has not only been unimpaired but even voracious.

This disease, as the name implies, arises from the use of mercury; I have never seen or heard of its existence, but in such as were under the influence of that mineral, and almost every prepara-

tion, even when administered in the most moderate doses, have produced it, which entirely banishes the idea of its arising from an intemperate use of that medicine; in one it followed the use of three or four pills, in another a single rubbing, in some after half an ounce, an ounce, &c. of the ointment, in regular doses of a drachm to males, and half a drachm to females; yet it must be confessed, that some few have doubled the quantity prescribed in order to expedite their cure; one patient acknowledged it to me on the appearance of this disease.—But this artifice could not have been practised by all, both from the general poverty of hospital patients and consequent inability of procuring such supply, and also from the dread of exceeding the physician's order.

Nor can it be ascribed to cold while under the influence of this medicine,
the

the greater number of the cases I have had an opportunity of seeing were seized with it in the Locke, and at summer, who upon the strictest enquiry, could have had no opportunity of being exposed to cold or moisture; indeed they are never allowed to leave the hospital without permission.

Nor could the mere respiration of a mercurial atmosphere, as some imagined, have of itself produced it, (though I am satisfied it favours its production, and contributes to the aggravation of it when formed,) some having been seized with it in their dwellings and received under it into the hospital, and none of the attendants in these places being ever found to labour under it.

I can only assign it to some peculiar irritability of the system excited by mercury, but what preparation is least likely

to awaken this is still a question ;—the blue pill, calomel, corr. sublimate, the ointment of the cinereous prœcipitate—the blue ointment, have all individually produced it ; it has appeared most generally after the last, perhaps as being most in use. I have seen a very singular case of an infant, only a few weeks old, having had it severely from suckling its mother who had been under a mercurial course for some venereal symptoms. The heat of summer seems to contribute very much to its evolution, it had been very frequent during the hot summer of 1801, and in general appears only in summer.

An eruption during the inflammatory action of mercury is far from being unfrequent, and this may be the same aggravated by the continuation of mercury or some other mis-management, or by some idiosyncrasy of constitution.

Dr.

Dr. Gregory of Edinburgh speaks of it as a species of erysipelas, to which some cases a little before the desquamation bear a marked resemblance, but the name here adopted and first given it by Dr. Stokes, professor in the University of Dublin, seem to be more appropriate to the general nature of the disease.

Some gentlemen imagine that there are two species of it, one peculiar to the venereal ulcer which extends more gradually over the body, the other to gonorrhœa, more sudden and more severe in its effects ; this distinction I have never been fortunate enough to discover ; perhaps in this manner varieties of it may be multiplied to infinity. I have seen the disease produced by calomel for the cure (as the patient said) of hepatitis. A very ingenious physician informed me of its appearing after corr. sublimate for

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the cure of a bad ulcer on the leg not venereal,—it has appeared on a woman after the ointment which she had been using to discuss some haemorrhoidal tumours ; she was married, denied her having had ever the venereal disease, her husband had every reliance on her virtue, which with the absence of every venereal symptom proves pretty strongly its being unconnected with that disorder,—in short it seems to owe its origin to mercury, whatever the disease may be in which 'tis administered, and the invariable ill effects which attend its continuation for the cure proves it very strongly.

It appeared to be equally severe to either sex in the instances I had seen. Dr. Stokes, however, has favoured me with a case of uncommon severity in a woman, who, with other alarming symptoms, expectorated the linings of the broncheæ

broncheæ, and also threw off those of the intestines, fauces, and nose, blood flowed from some slight abrasions of the eyes, the least increase in the dose of opium brought on delirium, yet she recovered.

This complaint is very easily reproduced by the smallest quantity of mercury internally or externally, which must be matter of great distress to such as are obliged to resort to that medicine for cure.—My friend last mentioned, who has been so liberal in his communications to me on this subject, informed me of a case reproduced by the mere mixing of mercurial ointment in an apothecary's shop; and of another from a few calomel pills. Mr. Huson Bigger, surgeon, has given me a singular one re-produced by opium, the whole case shall be detailed hereafter. Notwithstanding, after the lighter instances mercury has been resumed

fumed without the least inconvenience, nay with the happiest success; it would seem from some cases that the disease may be protracted to any length of time by occasionally renewing the use of mercury as the violence of the symptoms decayed: every age is liable to be affected by it.

I could never trace any dependance between the different degrees of ptyalism and this disease, it has appeared in every state of the mouth from the slightest soreness, nor have I ever found the quantity of spitting diminished by the eruption; nay further, in one patient it continued in a profuse manner during a considerable time of his sickness.

In forming a prognosis, we must consider whether mercury has been continued to any considerable extent after the eruption, whether the patient had

been

been exposed to the continued respiration of a mercurial atmosphere ; which chiefly happens in those hospitals where particular wards are appropriated to venereal cases only ; and what is of much higher importance, we must advert to the quantity and extent of exudation and diarrhœa if such be present ; in proportion as these circumstances are aggravated so also will the disease be ; much also will depend on the age and strength of the patient, and season of the year. Severe and repeated paroxysms of itchiness portend much exudation, these often alternate with each other, the one ceasing as the other increases—in general, unless in the most exasperated forms and with great mismanagement the disease is not very dangerous to life—there certainly had been a large proportion of deaths to the number I had seen, about four to twenty—

but

but there was a combination of circumstances to produce this,—first, ignorance of the disease and consequent mismanagement, next a continued exposure to the irritation of a mercurial atmosphere ; besides the greater number of these fatal cases occurred in the very hot summer of 1801, when other eruptive diseases, particularly the scarlatina anginosa, committed great ravages in the metropolis, and I have not taken into account several slight cases which terminated favourably in a few days.

I shall now offer a general plan of cure —the treatment of particular symptoms or appearances may be more satisfactorily collected from the cases to be afterwards related :—

Treatment.

Treatment.

THE use of mercury must be instantly suspended.

Much mischief has arisen from the continuation of this medicine on the supposition that the eruption, under consideration, was venereal—its suspension is frequently followed by instant good effects; if however the symptoms of lues be very urgent, other antiphilic medicines may be resorted to; among the first we ought to rank the nitric acid, which proves serviceable not only as an agreeable drink, but also for arresting the progress of venereal appearances; of all the præparations of mercury

corrosive sublimate is supposed least to aggravate this disease.

The importance of withdrawing the patient from respiring a mercurial atmosphere cannot be too strongly inculcated.

The warm bath should be frequently used, especially during the desquamation, as well to remove the cuticular flakes, which serve as a perpetual source of irritation, as to ameliorate the exudation, perhaps too it exerts a tonic power on the superficial vessels,—external stimulant and astringent lotions have been applied with temporary advantage.—Spirits diluted with water gave in one case a considerable suspension to the discharge,—as also the decoction of oak bark.

The powder of calamine stone had been used in the ulcerated state without any perceptible advantage.

Bark

Bark and vitriolic acid have been frequently administered without any improvement to the patient ; perhaps they contributed to the diarrhœa which took them off, aspersions of flower are also used to absorb the exuded fluid and allay irritations, but the application should be of the finest kind and of such as are least likely to thicken and form cakes, otherwise the intentions will be defeated—very fine hair powder or meal are best.

When the febrile state is diminished, wine given freely is of high importance, and the patient's appetite may be gratified by easily digestable food ; much attention ought to be paid to cleanliness, the linen and bed cloths should be frequently changed. Blisters are either never to be used, or only under some alarming affections ; the necessity of this

precaution has been abundantly exemplified, in a case given me by Mr. Bigger; which has been unfortunately mislaid—in his patient, a blister was applyed between the shoulders for the relief of some catarhal affections and oppressed respirations,—alarming symptoms of mortification followed which were with great difficulty conquered.

In short the whole indications are to support the patient's strength and obviate any troublesome appearances that may take place.

Having finished the history and treatment of this very singular disease, I shall proceed to subjoin the most interesting of such cases as occurred within my own attendance, or were communicated to me by my friends, leaving the reader unembarrassed to please his fancy with his own theories on its nature.

April,

April 27.

A. B.

Admitted with an eruption, which he says, appeared about twelve days since, first on the scrotum, then arms, hands and neck, with intolerable itching; he is now covered with many incrustations, and is in some parts considerably excoriated, is much affected by costiveness, want of appetite, and urgent thirst, urine red. By his own account, he had been using calomel pills for the cure of hepatitis, until this disease appeared,—the crusts easily fall off, leaving the skin of a deep red.—Habent pulveres purgantes, & linimentum ol. oliv. & aquæ calcis partes æquales, decoct. cort. peruv. uncias octo.

Acidi vitriolici ʒi,—aquæ uncias octo.

28. Physic operated twice, thirst and wakefulness still continue; allowed buttermilk.

29. Itchiness less severe, the crusts are falling off, belly costive; ordered the purging powders, warm bath, and bark as before.

May 1st.

Habent vini rubri libris indies, & electuarium ex crystallo tart, & jalapp. liniment, & decoct. cort. peruvian.

6. Considerable debility and constant itchiness, skin still excoriated, wakefulness and restlessness increase; took an anodyne draught last night without effect, belly open; ordered the warm bath.

11. The crusts are fewer, a new cuticle appears on his body, but his face as before; ordered the aspersion of chalk on the excoriated parts, and to continue the rest.

Exudation.

22. Exudation much diminished, but has a troublesome diarrhoea, these four days past.

R

Julepii. crætæ libram unam, tincturæ cianamoni, tinct. thebaici à à drachmas duas—sumat cochlearia duo tertiis horis, repetatur vinum, omittatur cortex, & mistura acidi vitriolici..

25. Died this morning:

June 26th.

A. B.

Labours under a considerable desquamation of his body with severe pyrexia, great anxiety and wakefulness; it began with a red eruption—had used about fourteen half drachms of mercurial ointment for venereal complaints when this disease appeared—is ill these fifteen days.

Habeat inisturam diaphoretic. ex aqua ammon. acetat. & vino antimonalii, & inisturam

mixtūram ex acido vitriolico, & aqua simplici pro potu.

29. Desquamation still continues.

Rx

Aquæ püræ uncias sex. tint. stomachi unciam, spirit. vol. aromatici ʒii, syrapi méconii unciam; sumat cochlearia duo tertiatâ quaque horâ.

30. Costiveness, wakefulness, and excoriations ; ordered a purgative of castor oil and tint. of senna.

Rx Aquæ unciam, tint. thebaici guttas xxvi. Liquoris anod. hoffmani scrupulum—vini antimonialis guttas decim, sacchari drachmam misce, fiat haustus hora somni sumendus.

31. Wakefulness and excoriations increase.

Habéat aquæ lithargyri libras duas—repetatur haustus anodynus.

Lap.

℞ Lap. calamen. uncias duas, amyli semilibram, quo aspergatur.

July 3d.

Habeat lactis ebutyrati lbii, & vini lbs, pergit in cœteris

7. Respiration laborious, and with a hissing noise; the extremities are often agitated with spasms, has had several loose stools, the exudation and desquamation now inconsiderable, the callous cuticle of the hands and feet coming off; has been delirious these two days occasionally.

8. Died:

I am sorry the other fatal cases are so imperfect that I cannot venture to insert them.

March 22d.

A. B.

About twelve days ago was seized with a florid eruption on the thighs first, then

then chest, face and trunk. It consisted in the beginning, of distinct elevated papillæ, but now that on the inside of the thighs is a red suffusion, that on the outside is elevated, rough to the touch and distinct ; but, in some places confluent, the suffusion disappears on pressure —the papillæ contain no serum—the face and eyes were considerably affected with swellings at first, but these have now subsided—the eruption twice disappeared, and after an interval of about twelve hours returned with shivering, is annoyed with a sensation, such as is excited by the application of nettles and intense itchiness in the papillæ principally that are most elevated, with a prickling pain of the soles of the feet : restlessness and severe thirst harass him ; pulse quick, belly free, tongue covered with a thick white-mucus—about six weeks ago got a venereal.

neral ulcer on the glans penis, for the cure of which, he used about seven or eight papers of mercurial ointment with some pills, the last he had been taking until his admission into the hospital; in all to the number of twenty, does not know the quantity in either—has a bubo in his groin and profuse ptyalism.

*Habent misturam diaphoret. e spiritu
minderi & sal. c. c.*

24. For the last two nights had been very dilirious—wakefulness and desquamation continue, the skin is of a red colour, pulse 120 and full—had several loose stools yesterday, complains to-day of tenesmus and restlessness, had some sleep last night, eyes suffused, transient flushings of the face, ptyalism still continues; ordered the tepid bath—half an ounce of rochelle salts to-morrow, and the anodyne draught.

the

26. The physic has produced four stools, sweated a little after the bath ; the skin is red and hot—desquamation goes on—face swollen—pulse about 130—tongue clean and moist, but raw in the middle ; had some rest with delirium—salivation still profuse ; has an immoderate appetite, entertains strong hopes of his recovery ; ordered a purgative, and a half pint of wine.

27. Purgative operated twice, slept soundly with scarcely any delirium—desquamation still continues—pulse 116—tongue clean and moist, has passed much purulent matter from the urethra—face still swollen.

29. Rested well the last two nights—has much desquamation and exudation over his whole body—excoriations appear on the inside of the thighs with considerable exudation, which render stiff

stiff his shirt and bed cloths : on the same parts, and on the angles of the eyes and lips, crusts begin to be formed, the callous cuticle is falling off the back of the hands—pulse 115—tongue clean and moist—belly slow ; ordered a lotion of warm water and spirits ; aspersion of flower and rochelle salts.

31. Rested badly last night, the sætor and exudation which were yesterday present, were considerably diminished after the bath ; the face is still covered with crusts, the cuticle of the thighs, which was first affected, is cleft in several places ; it crackles when pressed and is elastic to the feel, appears as if detached from the subjacent parts ; no such appearances on the other parts.—Pulse nearly natural, tongue clean, belly slow, urine red, depositing a lateritious sediment, appetite great ; ordered a pint of wine, and roch. salts, &c.

April 2.

Enjoys good rest and great appetite,—physic operated yesterday and to-day,—desquamation and crusts continue in several places,—is affected with itchiness, especially in the evening,—used no anodyne draught for some nights.

3. Desquamation still continues, same fætor to day,—skin appears red, in other respects as before; ordered the warm bath, &c.

5. Desquamation and fætor still continue with itchiness,—belly, slow,—the aspersion to be omitted,—the lotion and a purgative to be repeated.

7. The skin now appears more natural,—desquamation is considerably diminished,—pulse natural,—tongue, clean; ordered the warm bath, &c..

18. Dismissed cured.

I have this day seen an infant, about two months old, labouring under an eruption

eruption of a deep red colour with elevated papillæ like those of the last patient ; on the lower extremities, along the inside of the thighs and scrotum, the cuticle is coming off in astonishing length and thickness ; it suckles its mother who is using mercury for the cure of lues, about five weeks ago was admitted into the hospital, was seized about a fortnight since with the eruption, there is some exudation.

20. Has considerable desquamation all over his body with great redness of skin, which appears livid and inflamed, the cuticle of the penis is coming off ; dismissed from the hospital on account of the mercurial atmosphere.

21. I visited this child at its house, ordered it to be washed with warm water and new milk mixed, so as that all the scales should be removed, to have some

wine, and every attention to be paid to cleanliness.

22. All the symptoms are better,—no exudation,—appetite good,—rests well,—desquamation much decreased.

26. Dismissed cured.

May 15.

A. B.

About a fortnight ago a papillary eruption containing serum appeared on the inside of his thighs and back of the hands; has now much excoriation and exudation in these places, the cuticle is elevated in many; has a red eruption on his body.—Penis and scrotum very red,—had taken about sixteen drachms of mercurial ointment for the cure of a venereal ulcer on his penis.

16. Excoriations as before, some crusts are formed, the thick and callous cuticle is

is elevated from the palms of the hands,
—sent to the convalescence ward.

Acidi nitirici drachmas duas, aquæ
libram. sumat indies.

17. The cuticle of the hands is coming off astonishingly thick,—excoriations and exudation increase on the inside of the thighs,—there are no symptoms of pyrexia,—the bed cloths and shirt adhere to his skin hardened; ordered buttermilk, &c.

20. Desquamation commences on his back,—excoriations of the thorax, abdomen, and extremities continue,—feels great anguish from pain; ordered the aspersion of meal to the excoriated parts.

R

Ol. dulcis uncias quatuor, acct. litharg.
drachmas duas pro linimento.

Pulveris

24. Pulveris amyli unciās iv. Japidis calaminaris unciām, quibus aspergatur.

Immergatur balneo tepido & habeat pilulam opii omni nocte, & pergit in usū acidi nitrici diluti.

June 27

The cuticle of the epegastrium is greatly elevated, and under it considerable exudation is formed—exudation on the thighs still goes on,—is on full diet.

6. Exudation of epegastrium still copious,—much restlessness and debility; ordered warm bath..

15. Slowly convalescent.

August 15. Dismissed cured.

The following case has been transmitted to me by Mr. Hewson Bigger, surgeon.

On

A. B.

On the first attack, this woman was sent into the convalescent ward ; a desquamation of the cuticle had taken place in a short time after from her entire body except palms of the hands and soles of the feet.—Had a very severe diarrhœa which ceased without medicine, the skin became natural, nothing now remained but a venereal ulcer of the throat, which with pain and restlessness harrassed her much, opium was now administered, within the space of three days the disease re-appeared but without diarrhœa; thus the disease appeared three or four times at distant intervals that opium had been administered, the dose each time did not exceed a half grain at most. At length the patient was cured of her venereal complaints by the solution of corrosive sublimate, without the recurrence of this disease.

EDINBURGH,

EDINBURGH, March 18.

A. B.

In the right groin there is a large, painful, discoloured swelling, with slight sense of fluctuation in the more prominent part.—It appeared about four weeks ago along with a chancre on the glans penis, which last has healed, and has taken no mercury.

Inungantur crur. et femora dextra
ung. hyd. ciner. 3i. omni nocte, et habeat
pil. unam hyd. ciner. omni mane.

20. Applicr. cataplasm emoll. inguini
affecto.

26. Applicr. inguin. affect. cataplasm.
fatternin., vice cataplasm. emollientis.

31. Complains of catarhal symptoms, which are rather severe, a tumour has also appeared in the left groin.

Infricr. crur. ung. hyd. 3ij mane & vespere.

R. Acidi nitros diluti 3ii, aquæ Tonc.
3xx, syrup. simp. 3ji sumat indies.

April 1..

Habeat pilul. hyd. unam omni nocte.
Contr. alia.

6. Pilul. hyd. ciner. omni mane.

14. Omittr. pilul. hyd. ciner.

19. Omittr. gargarism. ex infus.
rosar. acid. et mist. salina, et habeat
gargarisina comimune.

25. Contr. unguent. hyd. ciner., et
applicr. cataplasm. emoll. peni.

Full diet.

Habeat flor. sulph., cochl. parv. bis
indie.

28. An eruption appeared about the
20th on the inside of the thighs, present-
ing to the touch a thickened state of the
integuments as in measles, but its
colour was that of a very dark red, or
rather purple; it appeared suddenly and
without

without previous pain of the part. A similar eruption was observed four days on the inside of the fore arm, which having spread over different parts of the trunk and extremities, has been succeeded by an eruption of very small vesicles filled with a clear fluid and attended with much itchiness, which caused him to scratch these places. Face at present somewhat flushed,—pulse 120 and weak,—appetite not much impaired,—some thirst. The unguentum sulphuris was applied to his arms and those parts which were most itchy, but without being productive of any benefit.—A bottle of porter daily.

May 2.

Has had some desquamation on the cuticle in thin branny scales, which still continues particularly from the osseum pubis and groins; to this succeed slight incrustations.

incrustations especially in the corrugated parts of the skin, as the folds of the elbows, neck, scrotum, &c.; other symptoms nearly as before.

4. Eruption declines but exudation increases. The aq. plumb. mitior. was applyed to those parts where the exudation was most profuse, without seeming to restrain the discharge. Has had the warm bath since last report, but was discontinued after the second tryal, as it each time iuduced deliquium animi.—Pulse quick,—nausea,—belly regular from the sulphur.

Habat pulv. cort. cinchonæ ad 3ii quater indies.

Habat pot. acid. miniral. adlibitum.

5. The cinchona has produced diarrhœa. Feels somewhat easier,—pulse 100 and stronger,—appetite rather improved;—considerable thirst; says the quantity of urine

urine which at present passes is only about half of that which he discharges when in health. The cuticle begins to come off in large portions. The trunk of his body, the extremities, but particularly his feet, are somewhat swelled. He complains of soreness and sense of swelling of his mouth. The discharge is attended with a most unpleasant and peculiar odour.

Repr. pulv. cinch. ad 3ss. cum tinct.
opii gutt. vi sing. dosibus sexies in
die. omittr. pot acid et habeat haust.
anodyn. cum tinct. opii gutt. xxx

6, The Exudation was last night more copious and general than hitherto with much itching. The trunk of the body, &c. continue swelled. Pulse as last,—diarrhæa has not returned,—thirst less,—says the smell from the matter discharged

discharged is become very offensive to him, so as to induce nausea—contr. pulv. cinchon. sine tinct.

Contr. alia, et habeat aq. cardiac. ʒx indies. hora 8va. p. m. p. 100 and soft, face appears red and much swelled particularly under the eyes.

7. Swelling of the face so considerable when awoke this morning as nearly to close his eyes. The cuticle begins to peel off in portions of a considerable size especially from his hands.—His feet are still more swelled and of a deeper red—says he feels more uneasy to-day, and the smell more disagreeable.

Pulse 96. Omittr. pulv. cort. cinch. et habeat mist. cort. cinch. aromat. ʒi 2da. quaque hora. contr. aq. cardiac. ad libj indie.

8. Exudation more general and considerable erythema continues all over his

skin,—fætor strong,—belly regular; complains of soreness of mouth and throat,—had a pretty good night,—says his eyes are very painful—thirst less,—pulse 112 and weaker. Contr. medicamenta ut heri, et habt. decoct. astringentis libj partibus affectis applicandum ope spongiæ sæpius indies.

Hora 8va. p. m. pulse 100 and feels better, has had some return of appetite.

9. An exudation similar to what had taken place on the breast, belly and extremities, has begun to shew itself on his face, which is more swelled to day has had tolerable good sleep,—appetite improved. There is also now considerable desquamation on the shoulders and back; says the astringent lotion has soothed the pain and lessened the itching.

Hora 8va. p. m. pulse 120 and weak,—is greatly distressed with thirst and seems to suffer much pain.

Debility

10. Debility greater, exudation very copious from the breast. The incrustations on the face are of a dirty yellow colour which come off in thickened laminæ,—tongue clean but pale in the centre.

Contr. medicamen. et habeat cerevisiæ (porter) lbj, et vini rubri ʒxii, cum aq. fontanæ ʒiv indies.

Omittr. aq. cardiac.

Hora 8va. p. m. pulse 120 and weaker,—feels very uneasy. The desquamation begins to extend to the hairy scalp, where the integuments feel rough and thickened.

11. Exudation almost general over the body, has complained much of nausea since last visit,—belly regular. Contr. medicamen. ut heri, sed repetatur haust anod. cum tint. opii gutt xl. et aq. menth. pip. ʒii, et habeat vini rubri ʒxx

cum aq. font. ʒxii, necnon misturæ vitriolicæ ʒii—sumat cochleare parvulun urgenti site.

Hora 8va. p. m. pulse 110, rather stronger,—still feels very sore,—the exudation begins to appear about the eyes, mouth, &c.

12. Had a tolerable night, and feels easy to day,—one natural stool this morning,—tongue clean and moist, and appetite improving.

Contr. vinum, mist. cort. cinch. aromat. decoct. astring., haust. anodyn. cum tint. opii gutt. xl. aq. menth pip. ʒiss, et syrapi ʒi. To have a double allowance of bread at breakfast and supper, and two pounds of beef tea daily.

Hora 8va. p. m. pulse 124 and weak, feels very sick.

13. Had a pretty good night, one very copious stool this morning, complains of his

his back being very itchy at present, which symptom, he says, usually precedes the exudation.—Very large portions of cuticle coming off, pulse 112 and small, has been affected with nausea at times..

Contr. medicamenta—h. 8va. p. m. pulse 120, has been easier since the visit this morning, feet less swelled. The exudation has commenced on the back of his neck, and in a slight degree on the fore-head.

14. Much the same as yesterday..

Continue.

15. Has had a good night, appetite continues tolerable, some swelling was observable last night in many places where the cuticle had peeled off and had been succeeded by a newly-formed one on those places, the new cuticle cracked during the night and a profuse exuda-

then followed; pulse 112 and stronger,
much thirst.

Hora 8va. p. m. pulse at present 120;
has been very thirsty and had much
sickness.

16. Continue.

17. Skin still very sore, feet and hands
much swelled, but the exudation has
been less for the last twenty-four hours,
had two loose and watery stools since the
visit yesterday; tongue quite clean and
moist, appetite continues good.

19. The exudation has again become
more considerable, had rather a restless
night, and three loose stools since the last
visit, but no griping, appetite continues,
and tongue quite clean.

Habeat infus: catech. 3ss post sing.
sellam liquidam. contr. alia.

21. Exudation has been very profuse
since last report, and has had two loose
stools daily, tongue clean.

Continue.

Continue.

22. Has been very uneasy since yesterday, one natural stool, the swelling of his upper extremities has subsided much within these two days past, that of his feet still continues, and there the newly-formed cuticle begins to come off in very large portions, which are quite hard and dry, exudation still copious, pulse 120 and weak, some appetite for food, and much thirst.

Continue:

23. Feels easier, but the Exudation which had not appeared previously between the shoulders was observed to commence there this morning. Two loose stools, tongue clean, pulse 106 and strong.

Continue.

25. Skin has been more pained and discharge still more considerable, has had some

some catarrhal symptoms for these two last days, belly regular, tongue clean, thirst much increased, pulse 112 and weak.

Continue.

27. Cough less severe, discharge lessened, except from his feet which are much swelled and of a dark red. Pulse 100 and strong, belly regular.

Continue.

Exudation from the feet continues, but they are of brighter colour, and swelling diminished, appetite good, and other symptoms as yesterday. To have soldiers allowance of bread.

Contr. alia.

30. Exudation nearly gone except from the back of his head; says he feels much more pains than hitherto, on any attempt to move, "and as if his flesh was cracking in pieces," the bark mixture produces

produces nausea and sickness, his eyes for two days past have discharged a considerable quantity of purulent matter, and says they are rather intolerant of light, pulse 124 and weak, tongue clean, belly regular, omittr. mist. cort. cinchon. aromat., contr. alia. et habeat pilul. ex lupuli humuli grano uno ter indies, omittr. haust. anodyn.

31. Skin more painful, still loathes the bark mixture, tongue clean, belly regular, pulse 120 and weak. To take as much of the bark mixture as his stomach will bear, contr. alia. et habt. aq. plumb. mitior. pro collyrio.

2d. June

Some exudation for these two last days, with much restlessness during the night accompanied with nausea, pulse 116, belly regular, eyes rather easier, contr.

contr. medcamen. et habeat iterum haust.
anodyn. cum tint. opii gutt. xlvi.

4. Some flushing of his face and increased redness of the trunk and extremities, some exudation from different parts, pulse 110 and strong, tongue clean, belly regular, thirst as before.

Continue.

5. Face still flushed, but redness of the trunk, &c. diminished, had no sleep during the night, exudation more general, and there is a discharge of a purulent-looking matter from the hams, his eyes are again painful, and the Tarsi are swollen and turned outwards, had one costive stool to day, pulse 120 and weak, much thirst.

7. Since the fifth; the discharge has only taken place from his back, the extremities are again covered with hard incrustations, many of which at times fall.

fall off and leave the parts uncovered of a pale red colour. The swelling of the eye lids is quite gone, but they remain stiff and painful; pulse 106 and weak, tongue clean, belly slow, thirst considerable.

Continue.

8. There is some exudation from his head on its back part and sides, where the cuticle also together with the hair in many places begins to fall off; other symptoms as yesterday. Omittr. cort. cinchon. contr. vinum ad libj italic., utatur linimento aquæ calcis ad femora & crura, et habeat,

Pilul. hyd. unam mane & vespere.

9. Feels much relief from the liniment, and is in general much easier, had a good night. Applicr. liniment. toti corpori, omittr. decoct. astring.

Contr. alia.

pulse

10. Pulse about 110 to day, had a quiet night although without much sleep, feels easy, as he thinks, owing to the liniment. There are two tumours, each about the size of an almond, one situate on the left mamma, and the other on the lumbar region of the same side; they seem to contain a fluid, and are of a darker red than the rest of the skin, but very little painful, tongue clean, belly regular, appetite continues good.

Continue.

11. Skin still easier, itchiness less troublesome, and offensiveness of smell much diminished, pulse 104 and stronger, tongue clean, belly regular. Contr. medicamen. et applicr. cataplasma. tumor pectoris.

12. Was restless during the night, but his skin continues to be less painful,
has

has had at times, since last visit, partial flushings of his face, and temporary sensations of heat in different parts of his body, which go off on the appearance of a very slight exudation, pulse 88, and much stronger, thirst moderate, has so far recovered as to be able to feed himself, which, from the increased pain on moving, he was incapable of for some time past; belly somewhat griped, he thinks, from the pills.

Continue.

15. Has at present considerable flushing of the face, which does not however extend farther; the skin on the trunk, &c. begins to assume a more natural appearance, complains of head-ache and general uneasiness, pulse 124 but dry, thirst considerable, belly regular, appetite good.

16. Feels easier to day, but says there

is a considerable itching of the inside of the thighs; pulse 100, tongue clean and moist, belly regular.

17. His gums became slightly affected from the use of mercury before the quantity was lessened.

Habeat pilul. hyd. unam tantum omni nocte.

Contr. alia.

20. Pulse 104 and firm, continues better and regains strength, skin still itchy but much less painful, appetite good, tongue clean.

Continue.

22. Omittr. pil. hyd. et contr. alia.

25. Skin much cleaner, less itchy and painful, face still somewhat swelled, and eyes continue sore. The tumour on the side suppurated and seems inclined to heal, appetite very good, finds himself much stronger, and has tolerable nights, tongue clean, belly regular, pulse 90.

Contr.

Contr. vinum. haust., anod. liniment.
et collyrium.

28. Contr. vinum ad libj indies et
alia.

Repr. cort. cinchon. ad 3ſ sexies
indies.

4th. July.

Skin in most places in a healthy state,
pulse under 90, still occasional returns
of itchiness which are succeeded by flush-
ings.

Contr. cort. cinchon ad 3ſ quater
indies.

Habt. vini rubr. ad 3x. haust. anod.
cum tintct. opii gutt. xxxv.

Habt. vini antimon. gutt. xx ter
indies, contr. liniment. & collyrium.

7. Omittr. vinum, et pulv. cort. cinch.
contr. alia.

10. Omittr. cerevisia (porter) et
jusculum

jusculum bov. Continue soldier's allowance of bread or porridge.

A bit of meat daily.

18. To be seen by the surgeon.

He was seen by the surgeon on account of the soreness of the soles of his feet.

28. Eyes continue very fore.

R

Unguent. simp. ʒj.

Hyd. nitrat. rub. gr. x fiat. ung.
pauxillul. fricr. palpebris omni nocte
horâ decubitûs.

Contr. alia.

August 4th.

Eyes almost well.

Omittr. unguentum.

22. Habt. liniment. simp. ʒj ad plant.
ped. adhibend.

3d. Sept. Dismissed cured.

TO

DOCTOR STOKES, &c.

SIR,

I cannot issue the above publication to the world without acknowledging my high obligations towards you, for having first excited my attention to this subject, and for the many valuable communications you have made.

Since the year 1800, at which time you first mentioned its existence to me, I have paid it the most unwearied attention; if the present work should prove in any degree serviceable to the public you ought to share in the gratification

G

which

which must be the result ;—though much has been added since the year 1802, when you saw it in the form of an inaugural dissertation, yet perhaps it has not acquired all that perfection which its importance requires ; but as I have shewn it to several gentlemen of the profession, without any kind of reserve, I make no doubt but its singularity will rouse their attention to further investigation.

I have the honour to be, sir, with great respect.

Your very humble Servant,

T. MORIARTY.

ERRATA.



Page 37 line 20 for sedement *read* sediment

41 - - 2 - - convalescence *read* convalescent

42 - - 6 - - epegastrum *read* epigastrum

44 - - 14 - - satternin. *read* saturnin.

45 - - 1 - - tont, *for* font.

